



RESIDENTS OF STATE CONGREGATE FACILITIES

Housing Authorities, Owners, and Sponsors

Notice: OPRHS 20-013

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Subject: Coronavirus Update – MASS TESTING

The State of Connecticut Department of Housing, in coordination with the Office of the State Comptroller, the Department of Public Health and the Department of Administrative Services, is implementing a statewide testing strategy as part of the Reopen Connecticut initiative.

This statewide testing initiative is intended to:

- monitor transmission and safeguard the health of the community
- protect our most vulnerable residents
- inform better decision-making on ongoing reopen strategies.

As part of this effort, the residents of our state-sponsored Congregate Housing for the Elderly have been identified as part of our most vulnerable population, and being prioritized for regular and periodic testing for COVID-19.

This initial round of testing is slated to be brought to YOUR building in the next week, and we are requesting your participation in this initiative.

Testing is available to all residents and on-site staff. The tests will be coordinated by a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), specifically designated for each Congregate facility. It will begin as early as the week of June 1 and retesting will be ongoing as determined by Congregate facility staff and the FQHC.

The FQHC and housing staff will determine how tests will be administered and this may vary from site to site. There will be no cost to the resident or staff members who are tested. The costs will be billed to Medicare, Medicaid, or other private insurance providers, where available, and any unpaid charges will be covered by the state.

You will be notified of the specific date and time that testing will take place at your facility, and we ask that you participate in this initiative. Your participation is an essential part of the steps being implemented to safeguard you, your families, the staff at your facility, and the community at large.

If you have concerns about participation in this testing initiative, please be aware that you are not obligated to do so; however, there is no risk and no cost to you. It is intended to help to keep you, your neighbors and the staff at your facility healthy and safe.

If you do not want to participate, you only need to notify the staff at your facility on or before the day that the testing is scheduled. Again, we urge you to participate, as it is only to your benefit and the benefit of those around you.

For the most up to date information from the State of Connecticut, as well as guidance and other resources visit ct.gov/coronavirus.